



TECHNICAL NOTE

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Bureau of Land Management U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

SMALL BURNET

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Introduction. Small burnet (Sanquisorba minor) is widely cultivated in Europe as a salad herb. In the United States, it is recognized as a valuable forage plant for big game animals.

BOTANICAL DATA

Description. Small burnet is a smooth perennial herb with pinnately compound leaves. The small flowers are void of petals and have four petal-like sepals and 2-4 stamens. The flowers are aggregated into dense, terminal, often bead-like spikes, and the fruit is an achene enclosed in a dry-4 angled calyx tube.

Characteristics. Although small burnet appears fairly drought resistant, it is a poor competitor and will disappear if competition for moisture is intense. Its average life span appears to be from 7 to 12 years; however, some plants are known to persist for 20 years.

MANAGEMENT INFORMATION

Grazing Preference. Small burnet is very palatable and is heavily grazed by game animals and livestock, especially during early spring and late winter seasons.

Planting. Good plant survival has been obtained following aerial application between chainings in juniper-pinyon sites. Likewise, good results have been achieved on drier exposures of mountain brush types and more favorable sites in big sage types. Small burnet seed is often included in mixture plantings containing grasses, browse, and other forbs. Small burnet seed is attractive to rodents.

Seed Harvesting. Small burnet seed can be harvested by hand stripping or combining. Approximately 55,100 seeds weigh one pound. The duration of good seed viability is five years.

Seed Availability and Cost. Small burnet seed is readily available from commercial seed suppliers for around \$.45 per pound.

REFERENCES

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4. _____. 1966. Notes on western range forbs. U. S. Gov't Printing Office, Wash., D. C. Agr. Handb. 293. 365 p.
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